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TICOM/I-145

Report on the U.S. Strip System by Reg.Rat.
Dr. HÜTTENHAIN.

Attached is a translation of a report on work on the U.S. Strip System written at our request by Reg.Rat.Dr. HÜTTENHAIN, of OKW/Chi, at C.S.D.I.C.(U.K.) in October, 1945.

TICOM

15th October, 1945.

No. of Pages. 2

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The American Strip System (Am 10)

After Professor FRANZ had observed the U.S. diplomatic strip traffic for some time, and had started the preliminary investigations of it, certain cypher data relating to this system was shown to him by the Anglo-U.S. section (ORR.ROHEN, RR.SCHULZ). As far as I can remember, this amounted to a complete set of 50 strips for the traffic on one key, and the dates and key-tables belonging to them. We cannot say for certain where this cypher data came from; it was presumably passed to the Cypher Department by some foreign Ally, perhaps by JAPAN, FINLAND or ITALY.

On the basis of the cypher data received, the traffic on the one key could be read. In the course of time, as a result of compromises or partial compromises of the traffic on this key, or with the aid of other readable cypher traffic, other sets of strips were discovered by cryptanalysis. We can no longer state how many different sets of strips were reconstructed; probably 10 to 20. Only a little of the material received could be read at once. Generally it was back traffic that was read. As, however, the different sets of strips were used at different times by other stations, it was possible, in isolated cases, to read one or the other of the special traffics currently. We are of opinion that of the total material received, at the most one fifth was read, inclusive of back traffic. None was read after the beginning of 1944. Professor FRANZ can supply more detailed information on all these questions.